

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraphs listed will replace all prior versions, and paragraphs, of the claims in the application.

Replacement Paragraphs

Kindly replace former paragraph [58] with the current paragraph [58] as follows:

[0058] If any application, service, or endpoint wants to use a service of a given type, it can send a message to presence service 412 to request an available service of that type, and presence service 412 can be configured to select an instance and/or function of the requested service type and return an endpoint address associated with the selected instance and/or function of the requested service type. The application can then begin communicating with the selected service instance and/or function. As a service instance's load changes, it can update its entity availability information, which can change the presence service's response to requests for an available service. This can, for example, provide an automatic load balancing for services, since selection of a service instance and/or function in response to a request for an available service can be based on entity availability value, which is a component of presence state. Setting entity availability value can further provide the capability to bring services on line and off line gradually and gracefully as needed.

Kindly add paragraph [82.1] after the current paragraph [82] as follows:

[82.1] Services and features can also be provided in subsets. For example, in system 300, to decrease load handling and balancing, a subset of services can also be provided. Media switches and application services can be distributed in any configuration desired. Such is true of services and features. In one example, a one domain scenario where the source endpoint and destination endpoint are in the same domain and served by the same media switch as in FIG. 2a, fewer services – a subset – may be chosen. For example, core services, the minimum set of services that must be located at a domain must be present. However, attached to these core services in this

scenario are non-core services because the endpoint are known. Thus, depending on presence services, authentication services, primary services, etc., in this case, a very small sub-set of services may be chosen depending on whether or not the endpoints need authentication, presence service and what type of media services are chosen.

Kindly replace former paragraph [94] with the current paragraph [94] as follows:

[0094] At some point, the first authentication service 414 can retry its presence publication attempt and, upon successful publication, the core services 410 for domain 400 will be in place. At this point, additional instances and/or functions of authentication service 414 and presence service 412 can be loaded in steps 512 and 514 respectively. Then, in step 516 all non-core services 408 can be loaded. In most embodiments, non-core services 408 can be loaded in any order.

Kindly replace former paragraph [108] with the current paragraph [108] as follows:

[1108] Each conference service can load, in step 716, a set of 'administrative participants', which are configuration dependent listeners that receive all conference related events broadcast by the conference service. For example, a conference logging service can be a required administrative participant that records all conference events to a database, e.g., for billing and reporting purposes. The conference logging service can, for example, be a distributed service, and an available instance and/or function of it can be located via presence service 412 in the same manner, for example, that the conference service was located.